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REPORT OF THE

FIRST FAO MEETING OF REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Held in Rome, Italy
8-12 October 1962

INTERNATIONAL
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

COMMONWEALTH MYCOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
5 MAY 1964

Beginning in January 1955, reports of FAO meetings, held as part of the Program of Work of the then Agriculture Division, were issued in the present form and numbered chronologically within each calendar year.

Since the establishment of the Plant Production and Protection Division in January 1959, the serial annual chronological numbers refer to reports issued by this Division.

Meeting Report
PL/1962/12

REPORT OF THE FIRST FAO MEETING

OF

REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

FOR STRENGTHENING INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION

Held at

FAO Headquarters, Rome

from

8 to 12 October 1962

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, Italy October, 1962

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CONTENTS

		Page
INTRODUCTION		1
PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING		2
I.	REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS	3
	1. Europe and the Mediterranean	3
	2. Africa	3
	3. South East Asia and Pacific	4
	4. Latin America	5
	5. Near East	6
II.	LIAISON AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	7
III.	PLANT QUARANTINE PROBLEMS OF INTER-REGIONAL IMPORTANCE	8
IV.	PEST AND DISEASE PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE	10
V.	TRAINING OF PLANT PROTECTION PERSONNEL	12
VI.	PROMOTING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING IN PLANT QUARANTINE AND PEST CONTROL	13
VII.	MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	14
VIII.	RECOMMENDATIONS	15

INTRODUCTION

The International Plant Protection Convention, approved by the FAO Conference in 1951, provides for the establishment of regional plant protection organizations for appropriate geographic areas to promote and coordinate national efforts in this field. There are at present four such regional bodies operating in various areas, i.e.:

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)

Inter-African Phytosanitary Commission (IAPSC)

Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)

Plant Protection Committee for South East Asia and Pacific Region

Although these bodies have different functions and deal with different problems, there are certain aspects in the field of plant protection which are of common concern to all.

The lack of a close co-operation between these regional organizations has long been considered an obstacle to the progress of plant protection. Therefore, at the suggestion of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation, the Director-General of FAO convened a meeting of the four bodies. The First Meeting of Regional Plant Protection Organizations for Strengthening Inter-Regional Cooperation was held in Rome from 8 to 12 October 1962, with the object of an exchange views and experience on various aspects of plant protection of common interest to the different regions.

At the opening session, Dr. J. Vallega, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, speaking on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, welcomed the participants. He expressed his pleasure at the prospect of a fruitful discussion of the many problems of plant protection which were of common concern to the countries which the regional organizations served. He had no doubt that the meeting would lead to the further strengthening of inter-regional cooperation in developing plans and measures of plant protection and would result in improving the efficiency of national plant protection services.

Dr. Ingvar Granhall, Director-General of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation, was unanimously elected Chairman to the Meeting.

PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO)

Dr. I. GRANHALL	Director-General, EPPO 142, Avenue des Champs-Elysées Paris 8e, France
Dr. L.W.D. CAUDRI	Technical Director, EPPO

Inter-African Phytosanitary Commission (IAPSC)

Dr. J.A. WHELLAN	Chairman, IAPSC Chief Entomologist Department of Research and Specialist Services Causeway, Salisbury (Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland)
Mr. L. CARESCHE	Scientific Secretary, IAPSC c/o Commonwealth Institute of Entomology 56, Queen's Gate London S.W.7, England

Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)

Mr. G.H. BERG (Representing Ing. P. Gómez, Executive Director, OIRSA)	FAO Plant Quarantine Expert assigned to OIRSA

Plant Protection Committee for the South East Asia and Pacific Region

Dr. E.E. CRUZ	Chairman of the Committee (Director of Plant Industry, Manila, Philippines)
Mr. J.L. MORALES	Adviser to Chairman (Chief, Pest and Disease Control Division, Bureau of Plant Industry, Manila, Philippines)

FAO Staff

Dr. L. LING	Chief, Crop Protection Branch Plant Production and Protection Division
Mr. G.H. BERG	FAO Plant Quarantine Expert assigned to OIRSA
Mr. A. JOHNSTON	FAO Regional Plant Protection Specialist (South East Asia and the Pacific) FAO Regional Office, Bangkok
Dr. K.B. LAL	FAO Regional Plant Protection Specialist (Near East) FAO Regional Office, Cairo

I. REGIONAL PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

1. Europe and the Mediterranean

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation

After the second world war, the need to control the Colorado beetle on an international basis became evident and, in 1948, certain West European governments established an International Committee on Colorado Beetle Control. In 1951 the European Working Party on Infestation Control was merged with this Committee, which became the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation with 15 member governments. EPPO is now supported by 31 member governments in Europe and the Mediterranean area.

The main functions of EPPO are:

a) the provision of advice and assistance to member governments on technical, legislative and administrative measures necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and diseases of plants and plant products, and on the implementation of such measures;

b) dissemination of information among member governments on the incidence, outbreak and spread of pests and diseases, and on national phytosanitary legislation or other quarantine measures;

c) the promotion of cooperation in research on pests and diseases and on methods of control;

d) the issuance of reports and other material for publicity and technical purposes.

In fact, EPPO in general takes all action required in the best interests of its member governments in relation to plant protection.

EPPO's main activities cover such dangerous pests and diseases as muskrat, Colorado beetle, Japanese beetle, fall webworm, Mediterranean fruit fly, San José scale, tobacco blue mold, potato bacterial disease, fire blight of Rosaceae and viruses of potato, citrus and fruit trees, as well as nursery inspections, fumigation of consignments, pesticide residues and integration of chemical and biological methods of control.

2. Africa

Inter-African Phytosanitary Commission

The Commission was established in 1954 to cover the African continent south of the Sahara. It aims at:

a) preventing the introduction and spread of diseases, insect pests and other enemies of economic plants in the Commission area;

b) eradicating or controlling any such enemies as they occur.

The Commission undertakes to encourage co-operation among the participating governments in the field of plant protection, especially with regard to the strict application of recognized and necessary phytosanitary measures. It is also equally interested in the promotion of co-operation between the Commission and other agencies and bodies throughout the world.

The Commission holds at least one meeting every year, in which all the member governments are invited to participate and at which technical and other questions of concern to the region are examined and decisions taken. As scientific information and advice to the Commission are mainly provided by the Commonwealth Institutes of Entomology and Mycology, the IAPSC Secretariat is located in London. From there the Scientific Secretary periodically visits the member countries in Africa, in order to maintain constant liaison with governmental services concerned with plant protection.

A Phytosanitary Convention for Africa South of the Sahara came into force in 1956; this Convention is regarded by the IAPSC as important, because it provides a basis for greater uniformity of action through the revision and amplification of phytosanitary legislation in force in the African territories. Such a step requires the preparation of a list of insect pests, mites, nematodes and pathogens existing outside Africa, the introduction of which would constitute a danger to economic plants in the Commission area in Africa. It also requires the specification of plants and plant products liable to be imported into Africa and of the protective measures to be put into force against pests and diseases.

IAPSC is currently dealing particularly with problems concerning rusts and their alternative hosts, the protection of forests, tea blister blight and the importation into Africa of vegetative material of tea, the risk of introducing fruit flies in fruits imported from Australia, and measures to prevent the spread of certain pests occurring in Africa. It is equally interested in ensuring that the national plant protection services in its area are in a position to apply effectively the required measures of plant quarantine. To achieve this objective, the Commission considers the following actions as necessary, in degrees varying according to the conditions prevailing in the different countries and territories:

a) formulation of appropriate phytosanitary legislation;

b) establishment or improvement of services concerning plant protection, and in particular phytosanitary inspection;

c) training of technical personnel;

d) improvement and extension of plant quarantine stations.

3. South East Asia and Pacific

Plant Protection Committee for the South East Asia and Pacific Region

The Committee was constituted under the Plant Protection Agreement for the South East Asia and Pacific Region, which came into force in July 1956. As the Agreement is primarily concerned with plant quarantine, the activities of the Committee naturally lie in the same field. However, plant quarantine was interpreted not merely as involving quarantine legislation, measures, procedures and techniques but also as including such activities as circulation

and review of information on the distribution, economic status, outbreaks and control of pests and diseases of danger to agriculture and forestry in the countries in the Region. The main function of the Committee is to advise participating governments on the pest and disease situation in the Region and on any concerted measures deemed necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of destructive plant pests and diseases.

The objectives of the Committee are achieved through technical meetings and through the activities of a Standing Technical Sub-Committee, the members of which keep in close contact by correspondence. Under the terms of the Agreement, the meetings of the Committee are convened at least once every two years or when requested by at least one-third of the contracting governments. The Chairman, who is elected from among the official delegates, also acts as the Chairman of the Standing Technical Sub-Committee. The Committee has met in Bangkok (1956), Kandy (1957), New Delhi (1959) and Manila (1962). The FAO Regional Plant Protection Specialist stationed in Bangkok acts as the Technical Secretary of the Committee as well as of its Sub-Committee.

The governments which have become parties to the Plant Protection Agreement for the South East Asia and Pacific Region are Australia, Burma, Ceylon, France, India, Laos, Malaya, Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Thailand, United Kingdom, and Viet-Nam.

4. Latin America

Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria

The Organisation, commonly known as OIRSA, was established in 1955. Participating governments are Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. OIRSA has headquarters at San Salvador and branch offices elsewhere. Its governing body is a committee composed of the Ministers of Agriculture of the participating governments. FAO provided OIRSA with three experts between 1955 and 1960 and one expert after 1960, to assist in the implementation of its program.

The functions of OIRSA in the field of plant protection cover:

a) assistance to member countries in their plant quarantine programs;

b) investigations on the control of the Mediterranean fruit fly, including the sterilization of male flies by irradiation and chemo-sterilants, and the use of natural parasites;

c) investigations on the biology and control of the migratory locust;

d) organization of training courses and in-service training programs on national and international levels;

e) publicity and propaganda.

OIRSA was created to handle problems of plant protection of an international nature which the individual countries could not solve by themselves, owing to lack of resources or qualified personnel. In addition to its operational functions, OIRSA acts as a consultative body for the member countries when plant protection problems of an international nature arise.

5. Near East

Although agriculture has been fast developing in the Near East, thereby creating many international problems of plant protection, there is as yet no regional plant protection agency.

The First FAO Plant Protection Meeting for the Near East, held in Damascus in 1961, recommended that a Plant Protection Committee be established for the Near East. This recommendation was endorsed by the FAO Conference in 1961. The matter will be further discussed at the Second FAO Plant Protection Meeting scheduled for November 1962. It is envisaged that a regional agency will be formed shortly after the meeting. In the meantime, the FAO Regional Plant Protection Specialist stationed at Cairo has initiated activities to promote plant protection on a regional basis. Among the pest and disease problems in the region, desert locust plagues have been a matter of widespread concern and practically all the countries of the region are participants in the FAO inter-regional desert locust projects. Other pests and diseases of regional importance include the sunn pest, Mediterranean fruit fly, olive fly, spider mites of apple and other fruit trees, virus and other diseases of citrus, and water hyacinth. The investigation and control of these pests and diseases require a co-operative regional approach.

II. LIAISON AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The First FAO Meeting of Regional Plant Protection Organizations recognized the need for maintaining close contact between the regional plant protection organizations. Technical meetings on some subjects would be of interest to more than one region, and facilities for training and other purposes established by one agency could be made available to others. To this effect, the regular exchange of information between regional organizations should be greatly improved. All kinds of documents, including reports, technical publications, information sheets and publicity materials, whether published or not, should be distributed among regions. Information about changes in national plant quarantine legislation would also be of great interest to all the regional organizations and governments. Likewise, notices of technical meetings, seminars, training courses and similar activities to be undertaken by one regional organization, if circulated in time, would enable the other organizations to arrange for participation. This would be of mutual advantage to both the organizing and the participating agency.

The Meeting also agreed that the regional organizations should endeavour to help one another by providing, when requested, information on plant pests and diseases in their region. In order to make the co-operation continuing and effective, the Meeting considered it most desirable that representatives of the regional organizations should meet once every three years to discuss common problems and to determine the lines of future co-operation.

It has been the normal practice for reports by governments on outbreaks of pests and diseases to be channelled through the regional organizations concerned, for onward transmission to international agencies and governments outside the respective regions. The Meeting considered it desirable to maintain this practice. With regard to major outbreaks or spread of pests and diseases of known destructiveness, the Meeting recommended that FAO be notified directly by governments. Reports could then be sent out through the World Reporting Service on Plant Diseases and Pests, which was established under the International Plant Protection Convention of 1951.

III. PLANT QUARANTINE PROBLEMS OF INTER-REGIONAL IMPORTANCE

Phytosanitary Certificates for Exports

The Meeting reviewed the model phytosanitary certificate annexed to the International Plant Protection Convention, taking into consideration the experience in regard to its use which had accumulated during the past ten years. It was recognized that the model did not meet all the requirements and that the wording could be subject to different interpretations. However, EPPO and IAPSC as well as FAO had examined various suggestions for modifying the model certificate, but in view of the difficulty of devising a certificate form to the satisfaction of all concerned, it was felt that it would not be desirable to amend the model certificate at this stage.

Reference was made to the certificate form adopted and recommended by the International Plant Protection Conference held in Peking in 1956, at which eastern European governments participated. EPPO had been requested to explore the possibility of modifying the two certificate forms. Although the adoption of a common certificate form by all countries would relieve the administrative burden falling on the plant protection services and might facilitate international trade, EPPO came to the conclusion that the time was not ripe for suggesting that FAO should study this possibility. The Meeting supported EPPO's view and, as the FAO certificate had been adopted by a large number of countries, the Meeting considered it highly desirable for EPPO to take steps to persuade all its Member Governments to accept and use the FAO form.

The model certificate annexed to the International Convention was designed primarily for use in connection with plant materials intended for planting and propagation. Therefore, it may not be always suitable for use in respect of certain commodities such as forest and stored products. The Meeting considered that it might be desirable to devise an alternative form for such products. In view of the difficulty of satisfactory inspection of such products and certification of freedom from pests and diseases, this alternative form should emphasize on treatment rather than on inspection. The Meeting suggested that FAO, in cooperation with regional organizations interested, constitute an *ad hoc* panel of experts to study the question and make appropriate recommendations. Attention was drawn to article VI, section 2(f), of the International Convention which provides that the number of cases in which a phytosanitary certificate is required for plants and plant products not intended for planting, should be reduced to a minimum. The view was also expressed that many pests of stored products being of world-wide distribution, freedom from them in shipments was more a matter of marketing importance than of plant quarantine. It was conceded, however, that the *khapra* beetle and possibly a few other such pests were of quarantine importance to some countries.

Reference was made to the fact that some countries insisted on visas from their Consulates on phytosanitary certificates. The Meeting was of the opinion that such visas were of no technical value, but could cause unnecessary inconvenience to exporters. It, therefore, suggested that the regional organizations should discourage demands for such visas.

Inspection and Quarantine Treatments

Seed-borne diseases. The representatives of IAPSC instanced some diseases which would require further investigation as regards the rôle of seed in transmission, e.g. blister blight of tea, onion smut and bacterial blight of peas. The lack of an adequate understanding in this regard has greatly handicapped the proper enforcement of plant quarantine. In view of the fact that seed-borne diseases and virus diseases remain the two major problems which cause concern in quarantine work, international agencies have made much effort to promote researches on these subjects. EPPO had convened two meetings of its working party dealing with seed-borne diseases. The Committee on Plant Diseases of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) has made valuable contributions, especially in connection with the determination of seed-borne diseases.

The Meeting agreed that many diseases require further research to determine their seed transmissibility, and decided that as a first step each regional organization should compile for its own region a list of such diseases on which further information is needed. These lists will be collated by FAO, and ISTA will be approached with regard to the possibility of initiating investigations.

Aircraft and ship disinfestation. The problems involved in the disinsectization of aircraft were discussed, and the inadequacy was stressed of certain aerosol treatments normally used, when eliminating agricultural pests, against insects of public health danger. New methods of treatment are under investigation but information on these is not readily available. In the OIRSA region an attempt to standardize aircraft treatments is being made and some progress has already been achieved. The European countries are particularly interested in treating aircraft from U.S.A. to prevent entry of Japanese beetle. In view of the need for a comprehensive review of the existing information on this subject, the Meeting requested OIRSA, in collaboration with EPPO, to compile the information available on the subject of quarantine treatment of aircraft, for circulation.

In view of the tolerance limits of pesticide residues established recently by some countries, difficulties may arise in the future as regards ship disinfestation. The Meeting suggested that it would be useful if IAPSC could undertake to review information on methods suitable for use in the treatment of ships.

Packing materials. Packing materials of plant origin presented considerable risks in carrying pests and disease-causing organisms. The Plant Protection Committee for the South East Asia and Pacific Region had discussed this matter at its meetings but was unable, because of the many factors involved, to recommend any generally applicable measures to restrict the use of these potentially dangerous materials. In the EPPO region, some countries had regulations limiting the use of packing materials of plant origin, but EPPO itself had not been able to suggest any action on a regional basis. In the region covered by OIRSA some countries, mainly through the efforts of OIRSA, have introduced restrictions in the use of plant materials for packing and it is hoped that such materials will be largely eliminated.

IV. PEST AND DISEASE PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Tristeza and other virus diseases of Citrus

Tristeza disease is of great potential danger to South Europe and the Mediterranean area and much investigation is underway in that region. The disease has been found in several citrus-growing countries but there is no evidence of its spread in the field. The problem of immediate concern is to determine, in the absence of Toxoptera citricidus, whether any efficient vector occurs. EPPO is carrying out a survey for this purpose in the Mediterranean area and the cooperation of neighbouring countries is required. To this end, EPPO requests the collaboration of the FAO Regional Plant Protection Specialist in the Near East.

Tristeza is known also to occur in several parts of the South East Asia and Pacific region, and other infested areas will continuously be discovered. FAO has provided or will provide experts to investigate this disease in U.A.R., Turkey, Greece, Aden, Malaya and the Philippines. The disease has not yet been found in the OIRSA region.

Tristeza presents a considerable quarantine problem to many countries. An international center for the production and distribution of virus-free stocks had been considered, to which suggestion the International Association of Citrus Virologists had reacted favourably, but in practice there are many difficulties involved. As an alternative, the Meeting suggested that national stations might be organized to undertake the work wherever possible.

The Meeting emphasized that, although Tristeza constituted an extremely serious problem, some other virus diseases of citrus, notably psorosis and xyloporosis, might be of greater danger in some areas.

Fruit Flies

Cool storage, fumigation and other methods of disinfesting fruits to render them safe for international transport were considered, and the general desire for some uniform method of treatment which could be used for all types of fruits and against all species of fruit flies was noted. It was recognized, however, that several factors, including the different responses of fruits to different treatments and the varying reactions of the different species of fruit flies, make the adoption of a single method almost impossible. In some Mediterranean countries it was reported that greater emphasis is being placed on field control to ensure clean shipments, than on quarantine treatments.

Blue Mold of Tobacco

Reference was made to the recent rapid spread of blue mold of tobacco in Europe and to the efforts to combat the disease. Much investigation is required to elucidate such points as the relationship between temperature and incidence, differences in the behavior and effects of the disease observed in different parts of the world, and the mode of over-wintering and dissemination. Since the seed transmissibility of this disease has not been demonstrated, its mode of dissemination over long distances is still uncertain.

Conidia can be blown by wind and might be carried on tobacco leaves or any other media, but they are probably short-lived under most conditions. Consequently, it is uncertain what type of quarantine measures will be effective in preventing the invasion of the disease into areas which are still free. The production of resistant varieties appears to be the most promising way of reducing losses. In order that a disease-free country may be prepared to meet a disease invasion, the Meeting suggested that arrangements be made through regional organizations to have the commercial varieties of tobacco of disease-free countries tested for reactions to blue mold in an infested country. Furthermore, the Meeting suggested that regional organizations should encourage intensification of research, especially on the mode of transmission and over-wintering.

EPPO was requested to supply to the other organizations literature concerning the studies of blue mold in Europe, including CORESTA reports which has made valuable contributions to the understanding of this disease.

The Meeting agreed that the three pests and diseases discussed above should be given special attention in plant quarantine enforcement, that their movement and spread should be closely watched, and that investigations into their biology and control should be promoted. The regional organizations could be instrumental in ensuring that continued attention was given to these matters in their respective regions.

Others

Certain destructive pests and diseases of limited geographic distribution are of special importance to certain areas, where they are not yet known to occur because, considering their life history, habitats and ecological factors, they are likely to become established if introduced into such areas. Such pests and diseases are of special quarantine significance.

Mention was made of the list of destructive pests and diseases not yet established in the South East Asia and Pacific Region, included as Appendix A of the regional Plant Protection Agreement and subsequently amended by the Plant Protection Committee. The usefulness of the list was emphasized. Similar lists prepared by IAPSC and EPPO were also noted, as well as maps and illustrations prepared by EPPO and OIRSA. The Meeting suggested that each regional organization should prepare such lists, and keep them up-to-date in accordance with current knowledge.

The importance of plant-parasitic nematodes in causing crop losses was fully recognized. Some work has been undertaken on this subject in all regions, but in most cases activities were handicapped by a shortage of trained nematologists. More intensive investigation is urgently required. Of particular danger from the point of view of plant quarantine is the lack of information on the geographical distribution of the important parasitic species. The Meeting suggested that regional organizations should encourage their member governments to carry out surveys to provide more precise information. In addition, regional organizations should compile lists of the plant parasitic nematodes known to occur in their regions.

Molluscs were also recognized as being of considerable quarantine importance, although they often tended to be overlooked in this connection. It was suggested that regional organizations should pay attention to molluscs, and that national quarantine services should be reminded of the desirability of enforcing strict quarantine controls.

V. TRAINING OF PLANT PROTECTION PERSONNEL

Despite the many training facilities made available in recent years by the UN and other international agencies and through bilateral arrangements, an acute shortage of trained personnel in plant protection has been felt in nearly every region. The facilities available now consist of: (1) training courses organized on a national or international level; (2) fellowships to enable technical persons to obtain training in foreign countries; and (3) in-service training provided by experts assigned to a country. In FAO's program, training receives high priority. Among regional plant protection organizations, IAPSC, with assistance from the governments of France and the United Kingdom, offers scholarships for training in Europe. National training programs have been also organized in member countries of IAPSC, to which France has recently assigned a plant protection expert. In the South East Asia and Pacific Region, arrangements are being made to hold a series of three annual regional training courses in pest control in Australia, to be financed under the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. OIRSA has organized plant quarantine training courses annually for the past six years and has presented some national courses at the request of member countries. Such undertakings will continue.

The operation of a satisfactory national plant quarantine service requires technically qualified personnel at more than one level. In many developing countries limitations in resources and technical personnel have made it necessary for them to depend on experts provided by international and bilateral aid programs. The Meeting suggested that in allocating fellowships and other training facilities available, governments should be encouraged by regional organizations to give high priority to plant protection.

In order to know the personnel requirements in the near future in the field of plant protection, especially in developing countries, the Meeting suggested that regional organizations should endeavor to obtain information from developing countries relating to: (1) personnel already available; (2) requirements of personnel in the immediate future for the staffing of national plant protection services and research and teaching institutions; and (3) the level of training needed. The Meeting also suggested that regional organizations should review the situation in their respective regions and assist their members to ensure that training programs are arranged to best advantage.

VI. PROMOTING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING IN PLANT QUARANTINE AND PEST CONTROL

The Meeting stressed the need for promoting understanding among the public, including administrative and executive officials and scientists, regarding the justification and requirements of plant quarantine. It reiterated that plant quarantine measures were not mere formalities, as many seemed to think, but were dictated by the necessity of ensuring the safety of a country's agricultural and forest economy. Non-compliance with plant quarantine regulations and sometimes even irritation when compliance was insisted upon were generally the result of lack of appreciation of the need for plant quarantine and of the possible dangers involved.

The Meeting was informed of the various steps taken by OIRSA in carrying out information and public relation programs to educate the public in plant quarantine and pest control. These include the use of the press, radio and television, public lectures, the showing of films, and the distribution of leaflets and posters. Information was also given to the Meeting regarding action recently initiated in Africa and South East Asia to give increased publicity to the need and reasons for plant quarantine.

One useful and relatively inexpensive publicity method is the use of posters, and it was agreed that regional organizations could usefully cooperate by distributing among themselves samples of or information on posters in use in the territories in their regions. As regards films, it was considered that it would be of assistance to the regional organizations if FAO could circulate to them a list of the films dealing with plant protection already available from different sources.

The Meeting hoped that the regional organizations would continue and intensify their efforts to impress all countries in their regions of the vital need for publicizing the various aspects of plant quarantine and other plant protection work.

VII. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

As regards plant protection, the countries in the region covered by EPPO are in general among the most advanced. The Meeting therefore suggested that EPPO might negotiate with its member governments to provide fellowships in plant protection for trainees from territories in the other regions, and help other regions in organizing training courses. This would be of assistance to the other organizations.

OIRSA invited participation from other regions in its regional plant and animal quarantine course, which is held annually. Transportation and other costs for trainees from outside the OIRSA region however would have to be borne by their own governments. The Meeting welcomed this information and requested OIRSA to circulate information on the next course, due to be held early in 1963, to the other regional organizations.

A desire was expressed for an exchange of experts between the regions. While an exchange of experts among regional organizations on a short-term basis could be arranged to mutual benefit, it was felt that the services of experts for extended periods could best be provided through FAO or other agencies, as done at present.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Meeting,

Recognizing that liaison and cooperation among the regional plant protection organizations are essential for ensuring the most effective application of plant protection measures and for improving the efficiency of national plant protection services,

Appreciating that personal contacts and discussions could go a long way in achieving these objectives,

Recommended that the Director-General of FAO convene a meeting of the representatives of the regional plant protection organizations once every three years.

2. The Meeting,

Appreciating the value of regular exchange of technical publications and other information materials on plant protection, including those relating to plant quarantine legislation, issued by the regional plant protection organizations,

Recommended that the regional plant protection organizations should distribute regularly to one another and to FAO all technical and scientific publications, including regional lists of plant pests and diseases, as well as materials intended for information, publicity and propaganda.

3. The Meeting,

Appreciating that it would be helpful for the regional plant protection organizations to be kept informed of each other's activities including technical meetings, seminars, training courses and similar activities,

Recommended that information about the above-mentioned activities be exchanged when available, or at regular intervals, between regional plant protection organizations and also be simultaneously provided to FAO.

4. The Meeting,

Noting that difficulties may be encountered by regional plant protection organizations in securing up-to-date technical information on plant pests and diseases in regions other than their own,

Recommended that the regional plant protection organizations do their utmost to provide the required information to the other organization or organizations, as and when requested.

5. The Meeting,

Recognizing that the present form of the phytosanitary certificate annexed to the International Plant Protection Convention was primarily designed for planting or propagating materials and might not always be satisfactory for certain plant products such as forest and stored products,

Recommended that the FAO appoint an ad hoc panel of experts to consider and devise an appropriate form of phytosanitary certificate that could be satisfactorily used in relation to these products.

6. The Meeting,

Being convinced that a consular visa on a phytosanitary certificate was of no value as far as plant protection or plant quarantine was concerned, and

Realizing that the procurement of such a visa could sometimes create avoidable difficulties for exporters,

Recommended that the regional plant protection organizations actively discourage any demand for such a requirement.

7. The Meeting,

Realizing the destructive nature of blue mold of tobacco, Peronospora tabacina, and noting that many parts of the world were still free of this disease,

Concluded that countries wherein the disease was not known to occur might be well advised to prohibit importation from areas of its occurrence of tobacco plants and parts thereof in a non-processed state, and

Recommended that the regional organizations should encourage the intensification of research to determine the modes of long-distance transmission of the disease, including seed transmission, in the countries where it was known to occur.

8. The Meeting,

Noting the inadequacy of known quarantine measures which could effectively prevent the introduction and spread of the blue mold disease of tobacco, and

Considering the desirability of countries still free to determine the reactions of their commercial varieties to this disease,

Recommended that the countries in which the blue mold disease was known to occur, should provide, upon request, facilities for the testing of varieties from non-infested countries for disease reactions. Arrangements could be made through the good offices of the regional plant protection organizations concerned.

9. The Meeting,

Appreciating the great economic importance of plant parasitic nematodes, and

Noting that information about the geographical distribution of nematodes associated with crops and soils, was extremely meagre in many areas,

Recommended that the regional plant protection organizations should:

i) encourage nematode surveys by governments or other agencies with a view to obtaining accurate and comprehensive information on the geographical distribution and associations of plant parasitic nematodes, and

ii) attempt to compile lists of nematodes of agricultural importance in their respective regions, on the basis of available information, for inter-regional circulation.

10. The Meeting,

Considering the difficulties experienced in detecting seed-borne diseases that could be introduced into new countries with seed importations,

Recommended that the regional plant protection organizations provide FAO with lists of seed-borne diseases of major quarantine significance in their areas, and that FAO secure the cooperation of the International Seed Testing Association to obtain information on the detection and treatment of such diseases.

11. The Meeting,

Considering the importance of possessing information on those species of plant pests and diseases that are not known to occur or are of limited distribution within a region, and in order that their introduction or further spread might be prevented,

Recommended that the regional plant protection organizations prepare and keep up-to-date, for inter-regional circulation and for FAO, lists of dangerous plant pests and diseases not known to occur or of limited distribution in their respective regions, but liable to be introduced through imported plant materials.

12. The Meeting,

Realizing the importance of ship and aircraft treatment in plant quarantine and the beneficial effect of such treatment in plant protection,

Recommended that OIRSA, in collaboration with EPPO, compile for inter-regional distribution information on aircraft treatment as a measure of plant quarantine; and that IAPSC undertake a review of the methods used in the treatment of ships for purposes of plant quarantine.

13. The Meeting,

Considering the shortage of technically trained personnel in the field of plant protection in many of the countries and the need for information on the requirements of such personnel in those countries so as to staff national plant protection services efficiently,

Recommended that the regional plant protection organizations obtain from the countries of their region an assessment of the existing technical personnel in the field of plant protection, and of requirements of such personnel in the immediate future as well as of the level of training required, and transmit this information to FAO.

14. The Meeting,

Noting that advanced training in plant protection was urgently required in many countries,

Recommended that the regional plant protection organizations should do their utmost to induce those of their member countries in a position to assist other countries, to provide facilities and award fellowships for study and training in the field of plant protection as well as to make the services of experts available.